



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
12795 West Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287



IN REPLY REFER TO:
IMRO-RSS-EQ (1242)

JUN 22 2017

Mr. Ammon Heier
Area Engineer
Federal Highway Administration
4000 North Central Avenue Suite 1500
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Dear Mr. Heier:

The National Park Service (NPS) has reviewed the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Interstate 1-10 and Interstate I-19 Corridors in Pima County. We appreciate having the opportunity to provide our initial thoughts and comments about how this project may affect units of the National Park System. This proposal has the potential to impact resources specifically related to Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, San Xavier del Bac Mission and Air Force Missile Site 8 National Historic Landmarks.

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (Anza NHT) appreciates the opportunity to provide information for the upcoming preparation of the Tier 1 EIS for the Sonoran Corridor Between I-10 and I-19 in Pima County, Arizona. Our comments address potential impacts to the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, due to our responsibility to administer, coordinate, preserve and enhance this component of the National Trails System.

The Anza NHT historic corridor begins at the United States border in Nogales and follows the Santa Cruz River through Pima County to the northern border with Pinal County. In Pima County, the NPS works directly with Pima County Office of Sustainability and Conservation and Farmers Investment Company (FICO) in our effort to create a contiguous multi-use recreation retracement trail near or within the historic corridor of the Anza NHT. Much of this recreational retracement trail has been completed in Pima County. The GIS data can be provided upon request.

The corridor study vicinity intersects with the historic corridor of the Anza NHT and potentially with existing recreation retracement trail, an official component of the National Historic Trail as defined in the 1996 Anza NHT Comprehensive Management and Use Plan. Coordination should be conducted with the Anza NHT to ensure that impacts are properly identified and disclosed and that appropriate mitigation is proposed if necessary to protect the Anza NHT resources.

For any clarification of our comments or for further information relevant to the Anza NHT, please contact Naomi Torres, Superintendent, Anza NHT (415) 623-2340 (Naomi_torres@nps.gov) or BriAnna Weldon, Outdoor Recreation Planner (415) 623-2343 (brianna_weldon@nps.gov).

San Xavier del Bac Mission and Air Force Missile Site 8 National Historic Landmarks

Please be aware that there are two National Historic Landmarks (NHL) located within the sonoran corridor vicinity, the San Xavier del Bac Mission and the Air Force Missile Site 8 (Titan II ICBM Site 571-7). On October 9, 1960, San Xavier del Bac Mission was designated as an NHL as it is an outstanding example of a Baroque designed church built by Papago laborers supervised by Spanish-American master craftsmen. It is the most spectacular remnant of the Spanish mission system in the United States territory. It has served the Papago Indians since it was founded in 1700 by the Jesuit Eusebio Francisco Kino. The present church is the third, perhaps the fourth, on the site. The Titan II Missile Site 8 (571-7) NHL designated on April 19, 1994 is the sole remaining Titan II Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) complex of the 54 sites that were "on alert" during the Cold War between 1963 and 1987. As such, it is of exceptional national significance as the single remaining example of the liquid-fueled ICBM missile launch facilities utilized by the Strategic Air Command. To the maximum extent possible, efforts should be made to minimize any potential impacts to these sites, following in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Section 110(f) of the NHPA requires that "prior to the approval of any Federal undertaking, which may directly and adversely affect any National Historic Landmark, the head of the responsible Federal agency shall, to the maximum extent possible, undertake such planning and actions as may be necessary to minimize harm to such landmark, and shall afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on the undertaking." Moreover, as stated in 36 CFR Part 800.10(c), federal agencies are required to notify the Secretary of the Interior (delegated to the National Park Service) of any consultation involving an undertaking at an NHL and invite the Secretary to participate in the consultation where there may be an adverse effect. Adverse effects are not limited to direct impacts and include visual effects.

For any clarification of our comments or for further information relevant to the National Historic Landmarks, please contact Skylar Bauer, Archeologist Heritage Partnerships Program, (303) 969-2842 or by email skylar_bauer@nps.gov.

Sincerely,



Melissa R. Trenchik
Chief, Environmental Quality